



# HF Happenings



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

## March

26 - Pesach starts  
28 - Coastal schools close  
29 - Good Friday  
30 and 31 - CQ WPX SSB Contest  
30 - Two Oceans marathon  
31 - Easter Sunday

## April

1 - Family day; Pesach ends  
4 - SARL 80 m QSO Party  
5 to 7 - Bathurst Agricultural Show  
6 - RaDAR Contest  
8 - Coastal schools open  
9 - Inland schools open  
11 - Closing date May RAE; Hindi New Year  
14 - Ironman SA, Port Elizabeth  
18 - World Amateur Radio Day  
20 - SARL Autumn QRP Contest; International Marconi Day; Barrels and Beards, Bot River  
25 - Lunar eclipse  
26 and 27 - SARL National Convention; Prince Albert Olive Festival; Mpumalanga Wine Show, Nelspruit  
27 - Freedom Day  
26 to 28 - Bedford Soul Food Festival  
27 and 28 - Haenertsburg Kiwi Festival  
26 to 29 - Africa Bike Week, Margate



Issue: 550

March 2013

## 3B7C - The Book

In the middle of April, Pete, SM5GMZ, releases another photo book. This time it is about the DXpedition to Saint Brandon in 2007, where Pete was one of the 20 operators who together managed to work 137 500 QSOs during an absolute sunspot minimum.

The book consists of a large number of images, all in full colour. In text, Pete describes how it is to be on an uninhabited atoll in the middle of the southern Indian Ocean, where nothing but amateur radio and satellite phones work. He also tries to explain the joy of endless multi-layer pile-ups and describes the enormous planning that comes with a DXpedition of this magnitude.

The book is photographed in the "documentary tradition", as Pete normally works as a professional photojournalist. This means that many of the pictures show the people involved in a somewhat different angle than many of you are used to from amateur radio magazines.

Pete and the publisher, Publicera Publishing Ltd, have decided to donate 10% of the sales of this photo book to ARRL's youth activities and another 10% of the proceeds to Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA), which since 1998 has been the moving force behind a number of extremely successful DXpeditions. Finally, Pete and the publisher will also donate 10% of the sales to the German High Speed Club, as one of the youngest operators from the 3B7C adventure, Jens, DL7AKC, became a Silent Key in 2011. Jens was an excellent representative for our fascinating hobby and an outstanding CW-operator. More information at [www.3b7cbook.com](http://www.3b7cbook.com)

## First Class CW Operators' Club and Award

To commemorate their 75th anniversary in May, the FOC (First Class CW Operators' Club) is holding a month-long on-air event featuring more than 20 special "FOC" suffix calls. These will include GB75FOC, a special anniversary call sign for their club station, GP4FOC, will be used when operating from Guernsey, GS4FOC from Scotland and GT4FOC from Isle of Man. There will be many other FOC call signs from the USA and VE and from more exotic locations such as VQ9, HZ1 and 5T. Stations will gain points for contacting any FOC member and a beautiful certificate will be presented to stations who reach certain point levels. Complete details are available on the FOC Web page at <http://www.g4foc.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1537887>



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at  
[www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org)

And more SOTA information can be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk)



### CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

**T**he CQ WW WPX SSB Contest takes place from 00:00 UTC Saturday 30 to 23:59 UTC Sunday 31 March. The objective is for amateurs world wide to contact as many amateurs and prefixes as possible during the contest period.

The period of operation is 48 hours, single operator stations may operate 36 of the 48 hours - off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged. Multi-operator stations may operate the full 48 hours.

Only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 bands may be used. Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged. The exchange is a RS report plus a progressive contact serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. Note: Multi-Two and Multi-Unlimited entrants use separate serial number sequences on each band. Get the complete set of rules at <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

### SARL 80 m QSO Party

**T**he aim of this contest is to create an interest in and activity on the 80 m band. It is a phone only contest on Thursday 4 April 2013 from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC.

Only frequencies in the segment 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz may be used and the exchange is call signs, a RS signal report and the operator's name.

You can take part as a Single Operator station or a Short Wave Listener (SWL).

You earn 10 points for every contact with a South African station and 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa.

Log sheets shall be sent by e-mail to [zs5lp@vodamail.co.za](mailto:zs5lp@vodamail.co.za) and the closing date for your log submissions is 12 April 2013.

### RaDAR Contest

**T**he RaDAR contest is an event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations.

This contest is for all licensed radio amateurs. A choice is made prior to the contest to participate in one of the defined categories. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable operation especially moveable stations.

The contest will be on the air on Saturday 6 April 2013, starting at 14:00 UTC and ending at 18:00 UTC - 4 hours = Approximately 2 during the day and 2 at night.

All amateur bands, besides the WARC bands, are allowed including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. Modes - CW, SSB, AM, FM or any digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed.

The suggested HF Calling frequencies are CW 1 836, 3 560, 7 030, 14 080, 21 080 and 28 060 kHz; SSB 1 845, 3 690, 7 090, 14 240, 21 350 and 28 360 kHz (ZU licensees have access to 80, 40 and 10 m); PSK 1 838 - 1 840, 3 580 - 3 582, 7 040 - 7 047 and 14 070 - 14 072 kHz; RTTY 3 582 - 3 620, 7 042 - 7 060 kHz and 14 080 - 14 099 kHz (check the IARU Region 1 HF Band plan for more detail).

The exchange is call sign, name, RS(T) report, QTH and grid locator. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six digits is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 digits. If the grid locator is not known, then some other information that could describe

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*Have you done  
anything this week  
to Promote  
Amateur Radio?*



(Continued from page 2)

the location, e.g. Mabula Lodge, 40 km west of Warmbaths

Each QSO counts 1 point and 1 QSO per mode, per band / satellite, per call sign is allowed.

The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score.

a. Category:

Fixed RaDAR station - at home / portable away from home

Moving RaDAR station - on foot / in a car, on a motorcycle or bicycle

b. Category multiplier:

X 1 - RaDAR Fixed station (at home or in another building)

X 2 - RaDAR Field station (portable away from home)

X 3 - Moving RaDAR station, car / motorcycle / bicycle - minimum 5 km

X 4 - Moving RaDAR station, on foot - minimum 1 km

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after

five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made.

c. Power multiplier: The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the contest - 5 watts or less the power multiplier is six (6); 6 to 50 watts, the power multiplier is four (4) and 51 watts or greater, the power multiplier is two (2).

Bonus points (All categories). 5 Points (equivalent to five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital mode QSO involving a computer. (For clarity: thereafter 1 point per Satellite / Digital modes QSO)

Log Sheets must be sent to [edleighton@gmail.com](mailto:edleighton@gmail.com) and the closing date for logs is 22 April 2013. A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

## Summits on the Air (SOTA)

What's it all about then?

SOTA is an international award programme that encourages amateur radio operation from the summits of hills and mountains. Activators are the people who transmit from the summits. Chasers are the people who contact the activators. Short Wave listeners can also take part, by logging QSOs between activators and chasers.

The activator is at the heart of the SOTA programme, since without activators there would be no QSOs! This publication is intended to provide the basic information that is required by Activators. It is only a guide and the full rules for the entire SOTA programme can be found in publication S0.1 - General Rules.

As an activator, you will be climbing qualifying SOTA summits and making QSOs from the top. The first thing you need to know is what summits

qualify and for this you need the Association Reference Manual (ARM) for the area in which you plan to climb. This contains useful local information, summit scores and, of course, a list of the qualifying summits. ARMs can be downloaded from the SOTA web site.

Some simple rules

For your expedition to be valid, you have to keep to some simple rules, as follows:

◇ You must use legitimate access routes and obtain landowners' permission if necessary.

◇ Operation from vehicles is not permitted and the method of final access to the Summit must be "person powered", e.g. hiking, mountain biking.

◇ You must operate from a portable power source (e.g. batteries, solar cells). Fossil fuel based generators are

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*"... promoting the  
use of Rapidly  
Deployable  
Amateur Radio  
stations."*





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not allowed. All equipment must be carried by you to the summit.

◇ At least four QSOs must be made for you to claim your activator points. You should exchange call signs, reports and the SOTA reference number (see ARM). QSOs through a repeater do not count. QSOs with others on the same summit do not count.

◇ Activator points can only be claimed by the holder of the call sign used on the summit. You need to send in your log to claim your points.

◇ You can only claim each summit once in each calendar year.

#### Operating guidelines

All modes and amateur radio bands are valid for SOTA. You can use whatever equipment you like, provided it complies with your licence conditions. A scoring system is implemented, generally relating to the height of the Summit. The score for each Summit is shown in the ARM. A seasonal bonus may be available to Activators. Details are contained in the ARM.

As an activator, you should always operate in a considerate manner. Avoid any damage to the mountain, walls, buildings, etc. Take your litter home with you. Be considerate of other people on the hill - e.g. do not string antennas across footpaths; use headphones rather than the loudspeaker and so on.

Be sure that you are competent to undertake your proposed Expedition and carry suitable equipment, taking account of the terrain, weather conditions, etc. You activate mountains entirely at your own risk and the SOTA

programme accepts no responsibility for injury, loss of life or any other loss.

#### Awards

Certificates and plaques are awarded to recognise achievement in SOTA. Certificates will be awarded for 100, 250 and 500 points. The "Mountain Goat" trophy is available for Activators who attain 1 000 points. Further certificates are issued for progress beyond 1 000 points.

#### What equipment do you need?

Activators will need a radio station that is portable - operation from cars is not allowed!

All bands and modes can be used - a 2 m FM handy is ideal for a start.

Chasers will simply need a normal home station.

Currently most activity is on 2 m FM and SSB, 80, 40 and 20 m CW and SSB. But nothing stops you from trying other modes and frequencies. I have seen some 160 metre activations as well!

#### Roll of Honour

A Roll of Honour for Activators and Chasers is maintained on the SOTA database at [www.sotadata.org.uk](http://www.sotadata.org.uk).

Activity alerts can be found at [www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org). And more information can be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk).

If you have an iPhone or iPad, there are two apps available - Pocket SOTA and SOTA Goat

"Climb every mountain" as the nuns sing in the Sound of Music!

#### Attention Prefix Hunters

The Ministry of the Economy of the Italian Republic announced that it has used up the prefix IZ and that it will now issue from the new prefix series IU.



#### African DX

Algeria, 7T50/7T9. Members of the Algerian Radio Amateurs (ARA) will activate special event call signs 7T9A (until 30 March, from Palais des Rais [Bastion 23] in Algiers City; WCA 7X-00012) and 7T50ARA (until 30 May) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Algerian Amateur Radio Association. Activity will be on all bands

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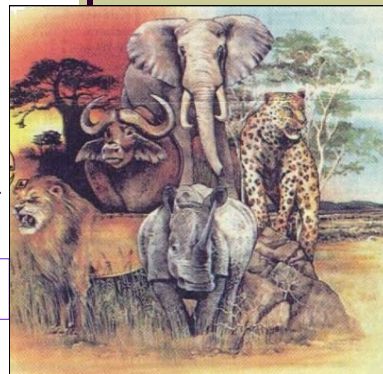
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and modes. QSL both call signs by the Bureau or direct (NO IRCs) to: PO Box 1, Algiers RP 16000, Algeria.

Sudan, ST. Mario CT1FTR is active from Khartoum until June 2013 as ST2FT. QSL via CT1FTR or eQSL. He is using a Yaesu FT-857 with a loop with a SGC-230 tuner.

### African Islands

Réunion Island, FR. Cyril, FR4NT, will be active during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (30 and 31 March) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. QSL via FR4NT direct (No IRCs).



### Operating Tip

**M**any of us will recognise *Contester's Crouch* - sitting in front of a radio or a computer screen, head forward, shoulders hunched, ready to pounce. It is instinctive, maybe, but not very healthy. There are a number of health conditions that make "the crouch" painful and put severe limits on operating time. Pete, N4ZR, got relief through placing a large lumbar-relief cushion on his chair to shift his posture. If you are not comfortable when operating, take the necessary steps to make things better - you are never too young to start taking care of your back!

My knees are giving hassles - but that is from picking up ballerina's in my young days!

### Word to the Wise

*Iron bottom* - a contester with a very high number of operating hours in a contest.

Doug, KR2Q, has provided us with the iron bottom results from a recent CQ WW SSB contest:

~50% operate for 8 hours or less

~75% operate for < 16 hours

~90% operate for < 24 hours

~95% operate for < 30 hours

Leaving ~5% iron-bottoms out there - and you know who you are!

### Contest Calendar

ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party  
00:01 UTC 23 March to 23:59 UTC 30 March

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-

Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/

Lightship: ARHLS NO, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with light-house/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 30 April 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

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This week's contests  
compiled by Bruce  
Horn, WA7BNM. The  
period covered is 25  
March to 1 April 2013



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Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box  
20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696,  
USA

Find rules at: <http://arlhs.com/SL-2013-guidelines.html>

#### QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or coun-  
try, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total  
QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 30 March  
2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 - 02:00 UTC 29 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total  
QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 March 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total  
QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 March 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 30 March to 23:59 UTC 31  
March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low  
or high - Tribander or Rookie; Single Op  
Single Band - QRP, low or high - Triban-  
der or Rookie; Single Op Assisted All  
Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or  
Rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band  
- QRP, low or high - Tribander or  
Rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-  
Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36  
hours with off times of at least 60 min-  
utes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100  
watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80, 40 m  
QSO with different continent; 3 points  
per 20, 15, 10 m QSO with different  
continent; 2 points per 160, 80, 40 m  
QSO with same continent different  
country; 1 point per 20, 15, 10 m QSO  
with same continent different country;  
4 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO be-  
tween stations in NA; 2 points per 20,  
15, 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1  
point per QSO with same country  
(except in NA)

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total  
QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 6 April 2013

E-mail logs to: [ssb@cqwpx.com](mailto:ssb@cqwpx.com)

Upload log at:

<http://www.cqwpx.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, PO Box  
481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

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Find rules at:

<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

Low Power Spring Sprint

14:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Single Band; Single

Op Two/Three Band; Single Op All Band

Max power: A: 1 watt; C: 5 watts; Q: 25 watts; X: 50 watts; Y: 100 watts

Exchange: RST, 4-character grid square and power category (A, C, Q, X or Y)

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with same continent; 9 points per QSO with different continent; 18 points per QSO with OM station

Multipliers: Each grid square once per band; Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 May 2013

E-mail logs to: [om3kfv@zoznam.sk](mailto:om3kfv@zoznam.sk)

Mail logs to: Radioklub OM3KFV, PO Box 3, 038 61 Vrutky, Slovakia

Find rules at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/lowpowerspringsprint2013.pdf>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 April 2013

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/r80mcc.shtml>



### Next Week's Contest

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00Z 2 April

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 UTC-02:30 UTC 3 April

SARL 80m QSO Party, 17:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 4 April

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 UTC-02:30 UTC 5 April

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 5 April

LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest, 04:00 UTC-08:00 UTC 6 April

RaDAR Contest, 14:00 to 18:00 UTC 6 April

PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 1200-1800 local 6 April

SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 6 April to 15:00 UTC 7 April

EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 6 April to 16:00 UTC 7 April

Missouri QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 6 April to 05:00 UTC 7 April 18:00 UTC-23:59 UTC 7 April

RSGB RoPoCo SSB, 19:00 UTC-20:30 UTC 7 April

### The Poisson d'Avril Contest

Disclaimer and 2013 Rules

<http://poissondavrill.webs.com/>

Disclaimer: Any resemblance between the Poisson d'Avril Contest and a real Radiosport event is purely coincidental.

Rules - 59th Annual Poisson d'Avril Contest (2013) 00:59 - 23:59 UTC 1 April 2013

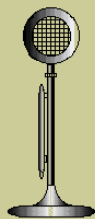
I. Description and objective:

Unlike many Radiosport events, which are held on the air and some of which have become way too serious, this one is just for grins and giggles. This is supposed to be FUN!



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## II. Bands / Modes:

All bands, all modes. If you do not see one you like, make one up. PSK31 losing its appeal? How about PSK43? On the other hand, if you are a QRP kind of op, try PSK3. Whatever floats yer boat.

The Official Solicitation for contacts is "?CQTEST" on CW, "izzafrequencyinuseCQcontestCQcontest" on SSB, and whatever those RTTY guys do. As an SO2R entry, two frequencies may be owned at any and all times. If someone tries to take over your frequency while you are on the other radio working a slowpoke, send his call to Pd'A HQ. We will take care of the problem. We know a guy.

## III. Type of Competition (choose at least one):

### A. Traditional:

The Traditional category is based on the legacy operating modes and sub-categories of single-op, multi-single, multi-2, and multi-multi, using human operators operating conventional radios on the amateur bands, and stations consisting of equipment and antennas located within a 500-metre (1640.42 feet) radius. All single-op stations must enter as SO2R, use panadaptors, Skimmers, RBN, chat rooms and text messaging with CT1BOH. Get with it, boys and girls; this is the 21st century (48th if you use the Chinese calendar). One radio may be used, but only if there is another also being used. The counting of the radios shall be two, and two shall be the counting of the radios. Three radios shalt thou not use. Four is right out. Use one call sign at one station for the period of the contest. Period.

### B. Avant-garde:

We understand that things can get slow near the end of the contest, so we have created a new category as has

been suggested for the November SS contest... SOMC (Single Op Multi Call sign). Each participant in this category may change call signs to appear as a new station or "fresh meat", and work the same old guys over and over again. Borrowing from the MS and M2 rules of real contests, entrants in this category are permitted 6 call sign changes per hour per transmitter per operator per antenna per ashtray. And you can work the same station on all bands and modes. Dupes? Sure, why not? Kind of like grid-circling but without having to figure out where you are. And remember what Buckaroo Banzai said: "No matter where you go, there you are."

The Poisson d'Avril Contest Committee is considering a survey on whether to merge the Traditional and Avant-Garde categories (and any other future categories). But first, we need to conduct a survey on whether we should have such a survey. Please vote in the Guestbook... let us know if we should have a survey, and who we should invite to participate in the survey, and whether we should actually pay attention to the responses, since we know what we are going to do already. Obviously, we do not want readers of CQ-Contest or entrants to any major contest to vote. And don't tell W0UA we are having a survey.

## IV. Exchange:

Signal reports must be 59 or 599 and serial number (which must be 59, since this is the 59th annual running of this event). On RTTY, the exchange is " 599 59 599 59 5NN 5N 5NN 5N TOO TO TOO TO TOO TO bell bell bell CR CR CR" followed by at least 20 lines of text describing every bit of software you are running complete with version number and specifications of your computer and sound card, then K K K K K. Exchanges WILL be checked and errors will be subject to substantial pen-

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alties. K1TN is required to send all exchanges at least twice to make up for not sending them in other contests. What goes around comes around, Jimbo. Some call it karma.

#### V. Multipliers:

You may choose what to count as multipliers... countries, counties, zones, planets, states of matter, prefixes, suffixes, we do not care. Total multipliers should not exceed the number of QSOs - it messes with the log-checking software. Make the job hard for the log checkers and we take no responsibility for the consequences. Could get ugly.

#### VI. Points:

There is no point. Only a counterpoint. Or is it a counterpoise? And if so, is it folded? Head hurts... or is it Hertz?

#### VII. Scoring:

All stations: the final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the multipliers times the Pd'A Correction factor. Plus 42.

#### VIII. Awards, Trophies and Plaques:

Did you see the trophy that the W1MD team won for this event a few years ago at Dayton? DID YOU???? It was freakin' huge! All gold-like, shaped kind of like a nekkid woman (or maybe like a lamp that KA9FOX found in a thrift shop), with garland, glitter, and flashing lights. Kind of like the red carpet at the Oscars, (why did they name the Academy Awards for a ham radio satellite anyway?). Wouldn't you like to have one like that? Sorry... that was one of a kind. You had your chance. But we'll think of something. Since the Left Coast guys always whine about not being able to win the 160 contest, maybe we'll make something for Visalia.

#### IX. Log Instructions:

We require that logs be submitted electronically... this does not mean you can scan a printout of your log and fax it to us (yes, people really do this in real contests). Postings to CQ-Contest, 3830, or any other real reflector count as log submissions. Post your score somewhere, we will find it. Really. We have nothing better to do than chase your important log. And use any log format...no need to colour inside the lines and use Cabrillo. Make up your own format. Files should be named "pda.log" There's no need for the call sign to be anywhere in the file name or your email SUBJECT line. And no need for the call sign in the log to match the call sign you use in the contest (our log checkers will figure it out - they are used to this sort of mistreatment by now). And if you log on paper, send your log to W7DRA. He needs it to fire up the wood stove in the 160 cabin.

#### X. Ten:

Might be good, might not. If it is good, there's no meters like ten meters, just keep going up the band until you find a clear spot, even if it's above 29.000. The band just keeps on going. Really! It is all ours. If conditions are not good, it is like 6 M in the January VHF contest. Bleh.

#### XI. Disqualification:

We got red cards and yellow cards. And we're not afraid to use them. We also have special purple, tan, orange, and plaid (for GMs) cards. We are not sure what they mean, but we will figure something out. We are pretty sure you don't want to get one. Actions and decisions of the Poisson d'Avril Contest Committee are arbitrary and unlikely. If you are disqualified for cheating in any way, and disagree with the actions of the committee, you may contact our chairman, Lance Armstrong, QZ6TZR. It may take him a while to get back to you, but you will still be disquali-

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# HF Happenings

HF Happenings-  
subscribe@yahoogroups.  
com



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fied. He is in kind of a bad mood lately...not sure why. And he knows a guy.

Of course, K1AR (family thing) and K3WW (infamous QRP incident in WPX SSB) are banned from entering the Poisson d'Avril for life. You must shun them. N6TV was banned for a while, but we cannot recall why (probably for this) so he is reinstated. Check the disqualifications page. And

feel free to make suggestions for additional DQs for any reason. If someone takes your frequency, tell him you know a guy.

XII. Deadline:

The Committee's favourite Dead line is "Too much of everything is just enough;" from the song "I Need a Miracle". And if you've spent the time to read this far, it's a miracle.

## History This Week for the week starting 25 March

1791 - The French National Assembly chose that a metre would be a 1/10 000 000 of the distance between the north pole and the equator

1875 - Sir Francis Galton published the first newspaper weather map - in The Times, London, England

1880 - Wabash, Ind. was the first town in which electric lighting completely replaced gas lamps

1885 - Commercial production began of George Eastman's flexible, paper-backed photographic film

1899 - Guglielmo Marconi transmitted across the English Channel from Boulogne, France, to Dover, England

1903 - Regular news service began between New York and London on Marconi's wireless

1905 - The radio fax was patented in the U.S. by Cornelius Ehret of Rosemont, Pennsylvania

## Skimmer Software

Many digital contesters are aware of DL4RCK's RCKSkimmer software, which allows skimming of RTTY and other digital signals by scanning for them with a conventional receiver. Now Wes, WZ7I, has come up with an ingenious way to generate seven bands of CW spots and two additional bands of digital spots, all from a single QS1R receiver. The Reverse Beacon Network <http://reversebeacon.blogspot.com/> is ready for digital spots - this will definitely increase the number of spots available to digital DXers and contesters worldwide. (Thanks, Pete, N4ZR)

## Do you smell the solder?

Technical mavens would do well to check out the project-packed web page of Jim, VK5TR, at <http://www.users.on.net/%7Eendsodds/>. I can smell the soldering irons heating up now!

## Greenland

Henning, OU2I/OZ1BII, will once again be active as XP2I from Kangerlussuaq between 23 and 27 May. Activity will be CW only. He will also be in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest on 25 and 26 May as a Single-Op/All-Band/ Low-Power entry. QSL via OZ1BII, see [www.oz1bii.dk/qsl-info.htm](http://www.oz1bii.dk/qsl-info.htm).

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